

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing Amendment now proposed is expected, since it merely involves cancellation of claim 18 without any proposed changes to claims 17, 19 and 20 being retained. Thus, no new issues are being introduced, while the issues involved in the final action are reduced by elimination of claim 18.

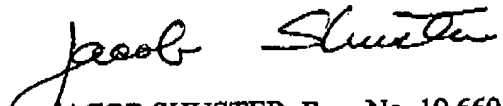
Accordingly, the only issue that remains for consideration is the final rejection of claims 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the disclosure in the Day et al. patent of record. The Examiner is therefore now urged to more seriously reconsider such final rejection of claims 17, 19 and 20 for reasons hereinafter pointed out.

According to the disclosure in the Day et al. patent (paragraph 0058), fire resisting resin infusion is performed by its impregnation into an outer skin 37 of a panel 30 as the barrier. Formation of such barrier panel 30 involves bonding of the outer skin 37 to inner skins 36 of the panel 30 by placement within a closed vacuum evacuated mold within which resin impregnation is performed. Accordingly, resin infusion is performed before formation of the panel 30 upon withdrawal from the mold with its outer skin 37 bonded to the inner skins 36.

In contrast to the latter referred to portion of the disclosure in the Day et al. patent related to barrier panel formation and fire-resisting resin infusion, each of claims 17, 19 and 20 specifies: "b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof". On this account alone, the disclosure in the Day et al. patent does not anticipate the subject invention as limited by the latter quoted recitation in each of claims 17, 19 and 20.

In view of the foregoing, an allowance of the present application based on claims 17, 19 and 20 is in order and expected in advance of the July 9, 2003 deadline for appeal.

Respectfully submitted,


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